



Good News From Good Shepherd

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
John 10:11

May, 2022

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By Whom the Gospel is Shared

After my father passed away, I was going through his things and found a small box. Inside it was a decoder card developed by his co-worker. It was used to help people read computer punch cards. Punch cards had holes punched into them, and each card represented a single line of computer software code. The cards were read by a machine, which sensed the holes telling the computer what to do. The decoder card I found in the box had inscriptions on it so that when it was placed on top of a punch card you could see what the holes on each card meant. It helped you determine whether there were errors on a specific card when you were debugging your programs. It makes life easier when you have a guide that interprets life's mysteries for you.

The book of Nehemiah, recounts how, when Jerusalem's wall was rebuilt after the exile, Ezra read the books of Moses to the people and explained it to them, so that the people understood the reading. We need that too. Sometimes the Bible seems like a punch card to us. We read it but don't understand it. We need a decoder, someone to explain the reading to us.

There was one other item I found in the small box. It was a letter to my father from the man who gave him the decoder. In the letter the man reminded my father of how he had shared the gospel with my father. He encouraged my dad to place his faith in Jesus. Yet, my father never spoke about his faith. He felt that each man's faith was between him and God. We went to church each Sunday, but he never spoke about it during the week. Because of that, I was amazed and thrilled to find that someone had shared the gospel with my father. And I thank God that someone did.

Discovery of this letter made me contemplate who I am. There are many people with whom the gospel is shared, but there are only a few people who share the gospel. Which am I? Am I content with having others share the gospel with me and then, like my dad, not talk about it during the week? Or do I eagerly share the good news with those of whom I come into contact in my daily vocation, as the Lutheran confessions call it? Which kind of man am I?

Romans 10:13-14 says, 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

We like to claim that God has not called us to be pastors. That may be true. But Jesus also commanded us to make disciples of all nations. And Peter says in his epistles to always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have. We may not be pastors. But we should all be ministers of the word to those around us. I thank God that my dad's friend shared the gospel with him. I pray that I'm also the kind of man who also shares the gospel with others, helping people decode the means of eternal life and making it clear where I stand with my salvation. This may be what Paul was referring to when he said, in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Be the kind of person who shares the gospel. This is your good work.

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David Smith, Head Elder (210.218.3685, Destax1962@gmail.com)

A Message from Your President



Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Proverbs 31:28 (NIV)

May is an interesting month, bookended by two holidays on opposite ends of the emotional spectrum and summarizing the events that we just celebrated in April: The Son caring for his devoted mother even as he was laying down his life for her and all us *friends*. Let us always rightly honor our Lord and His sacrifice so that we can rightly honor others for theirs.



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13 (NIV)

Council Actions: The leadership team made a financial decision regarding the savings fund that originated with the LCEF Ohio District which has since merged with LCEF National. The fund was limited on two levels - low interest rate and only withdrawals permitted. The LCEF is looking to close out these grandfathered funds and made an offer we couldn't refuse. The fund will be converted to the LCEF PartnerPLUS fund - a portion at a higher interest rate with a 4-year commitment and a portion at a slightly lower rate and 2-year rate commitment. • We had the pleasure of appointing **Karen Neubauer to fill the vacant Secretary position**. Welcome Karen and thank you for your willingness to serve in this role! • Consensus was reached regarding a question posed by our Electoral Circuit. Based on March 2022 data, our Southwest 2 Region is shy of the 1500 membership number required by Synod bylaws for supporting a lay and pastoral delegate at the convention. The question: Should we merge with Southwest 1 and give up our lay and pastoral votes or request an exemption for this convention. The consensus is that an exception should be requested for the 2023 convention, given the stressful pandemic years that could be artificially depressing membership, and revisit the merge option for the 2026 convention. This decision was communicated to our District President and Circuit.

There's still time to let the **Nominating Committee** [Phillip Brann (chair), Mary Givhan, Guddy Gawura, Marlis Norton] know your willingness to serve in any leadership position and especially the following for the **May election: President, Treasurer and Christian Ministry Chair**. Those currently serving as Property Chair and three Elders have already agreed to let their names stand for re-election. The terms of these positions will begin July 1 and continue through June 30, 2024. Prayerfully consider how you might apply your special gifts to these positions in service to your Lord and His church.



Don't Forget: Other Things for Voters to Ponder for the Voter Meeting

In addition to the items below presented to you last month, the voters will have a draft of an **Employee Policy** to review that has been under construction by both the Finance Committee and the Council.

Related to the 13th Month Campaign: The question was raised if we could convert to a fixed rate mortgage. LCEF manages its rates and plans different than a bank. We can convert with some upfront fees, but not at our current rate of 3.625% and not a full term fixed rate, but a 5 year (at 4.375%) or 10 year (at 4.75%) fixed. More information will be shared in May at the voter meeting. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider your position on pursuing such a change, or not.

For e-Givers or folks who have pondered e-Giving: How important is flexibility to your e-Giving habits? Our current e-Giving function is limited to the General Fund and Credit/Debit payment methods.

- 1) Would you be more inclined to make greater use of e-Giving if you could have a choice of funds to give to?
- 2) Would you use e-Giving if you could also set up ACH vs Credit Card as a payment method? (ACH fees are lower.)
- 3) Would you be inclined to cover the processing fee of your e-Gift if given the option?

These questions, along with more background information, will be posed at the voter meeting. Please prayerfully consider your position on them.

Our Federation of Lutheran Churches is considering a new mission since we called Pastor Poynter away from the Campus Ministry the Federation funded. Our Federation has an opportunity to support a mission to local Arab/Immigrant communities through POBLO (People of the Book, Lutheran Outreach). POBLO is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS and would manage the ministry and missionaries. The Federation would commit to a 5-year missionary program at approximately \$74,000/per year. Does this opportunity excite you or do we have other ideas for local ministries our collective churches could/should pursue through our Federation? [Good Shepherd currently supports the Federation as a local mission which

includes Pastor Ewell, Chaplain to UCMC, education seminars and service events like the Flood Buckets this month.] As your representative, I'd like to report back your thoughts. The Federation Board of Controls will be voting on this subject at the end-of-May meeting.

^{1b} [I]...beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ²With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;³ Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1b-3 (KJV)

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

Embraced by His Grace, Engaged in His Word, Empowered by His Spirit

Christian Education

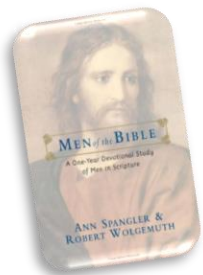


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • June 11

Please note: We are not meeting in May due to a tight calendar and travel. Our second-Saturday Bible Breakfast resumes at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 11. Bring a dish to share or your own personal favorite if you prefer. God always provides just what we need. We'll continue the LWML Fruits of the Spirit study series and will focus on Peace.

Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 8:45 a.m.

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Our study is *Forgiveness* by Donna Pyle(now Snow). The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in. It's not too late!



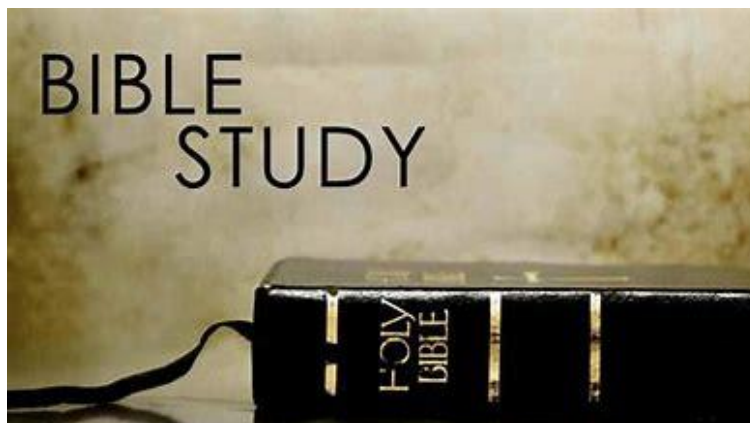
Women's Tuesday Bible Study • *Men of the Bible* • 9:30 am

We are meeting in person; providing zoom for those who prefer. All are welcome. Join in any time. We study one person each session, no book required. If you wish to be included, let Lynn know and we'll get the meeting invite to you.

**Men's Bible Study
Mondays – 10 Am
A Summary of
Christian Doctrine**

**Pastor's Bible Study
Sunday at 8:45 am
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**

Topic: Judging Others.
When, How and When we are to judge.





May

Leland Woolley	May 2
Kim Warren	May 6
Pastor Michael Poynter	May 6
Tammy Vaughan	May 12
Alain Duane	May 13
Brittany Vonderlage	May 18
Amanda Poynter	May 20
Karen Sladen	May 26
Brigid Smith	May 2

June

Glen Leavens	June 2
Kohen Mason	June 10
Jennifer Ostermeier	June 10
Julie Poynter	June 12
Adam Ostermeier	June 13
Jackie Vezina	June 17
Houston Aragon	June 22
Colin Brann	June 23
Peggy Bacon	June 26
Jerry Fitzpatrick	June 27

SAVE THE DATE

Trash for Cash Pickup

May 14, 2022, 9-11 am

Giving Green to Keep Boone County Green



*Drive Through Food Pantry
Saturday, May 21, 10- Noon
More information to come*



Mark your calendars for **Cross The Bridge for Life**, which is taking place at Festival Park, Newport, KY on Sunday, June 5, 2022. Please consider joining the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for Life as thousands walk for the sanctity of life in this prayerful, peaceful, family-friendly event. Festivities begin at 1:00 p.m. The actual Walk begins at 2:00 p.m. Help raise awareness of the value of all Human Life.

Stewards of the Mysteries of God

By Kevin D. Robson | Spring 2022



Rev. Kevin D. Robson

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. ... It is the Lord who judges me" (1 Cor. 4:1–4).

It's as if St. Paul were saying to those congregation members in Corinth: "It is quite a trivial thing that my ministry would be subject to the opinions of fellow sinners. The only thing that matters is faithful stewardship of the Gospel."

How's that for apostolic confessional nerve? Paul begs that anyone would listen to him only because he preaches the only person worth preaching: Jesus Christ.

Would that the church in mission follow closely on such a pattern — that we would patiently live, love and work within the promise already ours in Baptism. The verdict that counts is the Lord's alone; all will be completed in the day of His glorious return. Every other "judgment," small or large, is corrupted by deficient human reason.

Drop the mask and don't be burdened with anxiety over the assessments and objections of a broken world. Abide in the perfect righteousness placed upon you by the Word. Clothe yourself in Him, the truth. Tell others about Him and watch the truth work. Do not be captivated by the conceits of those who overinflate their own worth. Allow divisive walls to be torn down in a sure-handed proclamation of the Gospel that makes the many into one, forgiven in Jesus' shed blood. He has called us into action as His worthy servants, intensely vigilant and intent on handing over the mysteries that have been entrusted to the church and her ministry — the transformative, healing Word from His cross and the certain hope of the resurrection of all flesh — mysteries now hidden from faithless unbelievers, but soon to be revealed.

In Christ,
Rev. Kevin D. Robson
Chief Mission Officer, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April 27

Administrative Assistance Day

Thank you, Lynn, for all you do for us.

How would we make it without you!!

We don't want to know.





Celebrating Whiz Kids

Another Successful Year of Whiz Kids

A couple of changes were made to the program this year. We purchased learning games to enhance vocabulary and spelling, improved the reward system, and we used a new curriculum for Jesus time. All of these had excellent results. The kids improved their reading by 3-6 levels! They loved the new games and looked forward to earning enough stickers to get a new book. The new Jesus time curriculum inspired more conversation and thought about God. Often the Whiz Kids came back from Jesus time telling their tutors what new story they learned. The kids truly love the program. Another change that was made this year was to teach them The Lords Prayer, which we recited at the end of every session. We had two special events this year: putting on a Christmas play for the families in December and hosting an awards dinner in April.

Kathy Nielsen, Whiz Kids Coordinator



Keegan was a delightful boy with a big heart who just needed patient one-on-one time to help him thrive! His reading has soared which helps him in all his school subjects. **Sherri Smith**



When Chloe and I first met she was quiet and shy. But after spending time together she began to open up a little and we became friends. As we read together each week, I saw her becoming more sure of herself. **Karen Sladen**



Jenn Ostemeier



Sue Speicher





Volunteering for Whiz Kids gave me an opportunity to help a student read with confidence, and it turned out to be much more. She told me this was the place where she enjoyed talking and learning about Jesus. We became friends. **Karen Neubauer**



It was a blessing to help Edwin. He is a great kid. He never missed a day coming to Whiz Kids this year. His family also attended our services for Advent and Lent. It was nice to do the Lord's work. **Billy Mitchell**

April Events

Congregation to our Confirmands

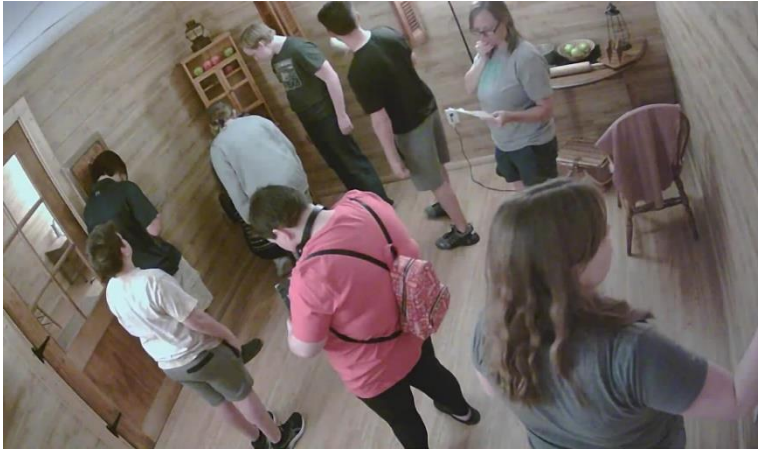


Easter Celebration





Youth Activity Escape Room Adventure



Flood Bucket Assembly 100 Buckets were assembled



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter

May, 2022

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income be-cause we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst. (1 Cor 16:2)





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